

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1127

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR PGOV AR CI

SUBJECT: BEAGLE CHANNEL; PRESIDENTS TO SIGN AGREEMENT FEBRUARY 20

REF: SANTIAGO 0998

1. THE GOC ANNOUNCED AT NOON TODAY, FEBRUARY 17, THAT PRESIDENTS PINOCHET AND VIDELA WILL MEET FOR THE SECOND TIME ON THE BEAGLE CHANNEL PROBLEM ON FEBRUARY 20. FONMIN CARVAJAL INFORMED THE AMBASSADOR THE VENUE WOULD BE PUERTO MONTT.

2. THE TEXT OF THE AGREEMENT REACHED BY CHILE AND ARGENTINA ON HOW TO PROCEED WITH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOT BE MADE PUBLIC UNTIL THE FEBURARY 20 MEETING. HOWEVER, "EL MERCURIO" OF FEBRUARY 17, IN A STORY THAT APPEARS TO HAVE THE BENEFIT OF INSIDE INFORMATION, REPORTS THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THREE PHASES. FIRST, AN INITIAL PERIOD OF 45 DAYS IN WHICH BOTH SIDES WILL BE REPRESENTED BY THREE PERSONS EACH AND FOR WHICH THE "ONLY" PURPOSE WILL BE "TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS OF HARMONY THAT WILL FACILITATE LATER MORE SPECIFIC WORK." A SECOND PERIOD LASTING SIX MONTHS DURING WHICH FIVE TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS WILL BE ESTABLISHED TO STUDY: (A) THE DEFINITION OF

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BOUNDARIES IN THE SOUTHERN REGION; (B) THE WHOLE RANGE OF COOPERATIVE MEASURES REQUIRED BY CHILE/ARGENTINE PROXIMITY ("INTEGRACION FISICA"); (C) MATTERS RELATED TO THE ANTARCTIC; (D) MATTERS RELATED TO THE STRAIT OF MAGALLEN; (E) MATTERS RELATED TO STRAIGHT BASE LINES. THE THIRD AND FINAL PHASE WOULD SEE THE PREPARATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS BASED ON THE WORK OF PHASE TWO.

3. COMMENT: IN A MEETING ON OTHER SUBJECTS, FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL CONFIRMED THE ACCURACY OF THE SCHEDULE AND CONTENT OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCEDURES AS OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH 2. IN ADDITION, CARVAJAL MADE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

-- THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY "ELEMENTS OF DETENTE" WHICH WOULD INCLUDE EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN A ROUGH MILITARY STATUS QUO AND AVOID PROVOCATIVE PRESS EXAGGERATION.

-- THE BINDING ARBITRATION DECISION ON THE BEAGLE WOULD NOT BE A SUBJECT FOR NEGOTIATION BUT MATTERS PERTAINING TO MARITIME BOUNDARIES WOULD.

-- AS COULD BE SEEN, THIS PROCEDURE WOULD PROVIDE FOR NEGOTIATIONS LASTING ABOUT A YEAR. CARVAJAL COMMENTED WRYLY THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WOULD EXTEND BEYOND THE DATE FOR MASERA'S RETIREMENT.
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